

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Winter 12-11-2009

### Volume 45 - Issue 10 - Friday, December 11, 2009

Rose Thorn Staff

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#### Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 45 - Issue 10 - Friday, December 11, 2009" (2009). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 112.

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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 10

## News Briefs

By Alex Mullans

### Minarets banned in Switzerland

On Sunday, a Swiss popular vote approved a proposal from the country's right-wing Swiss People's Party that bans the construction of minarets, the spire-like structures that are used for calls to prayer in many Muslim countries. The move has attracted criticism from many in Europe, including French President Nicholas Sarkozy, who said that people should practice their faiths with "humble discretion." Many have said that the vote creates a double standard, and the UK's Guardian newspaper noted that an EU human rights court would likely find that the vote violates the principle of religious freedom.

### AT&T to "educate" heavy data users

In a speech at an AT&T investor's conference, CEO Ralph de la Vega acknowledged what many iPhone users have complained about: iPhone-heavy network regions like San Francisco and New York have below-standard network performance. De la Vega claimed that 3% of smartphone users are using more than 40% of AT&T's total data traffic. He went further to state that "we have to get to [customers who use streaming video and audio] and get them to recognize they have to change their patterns, or there are things we will do to change those patterns." AT&T has not been clear concerning what those things are, but has suggested that it could consider usage caps, or "throttling."

### Sanford may be subject to censure

South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford has been the frequent subject of headlines and controversy since his unannounced disappearance in June that led the public, his staff, and his wife to question his whereabouts. On Wednesday, a panel of state lawmakers voted 6-1 against impeaching the governor, but many of those same lawmakers have recommended that he be officially censured. Censuring is a process where, although no charges are filed, a public official is publicly reprimanded for their behavior. He is also facing various ethics charges for his use of state funds for travel expenses and campaign funding.

Alex Mullans

Sports Editor

Rose-Hulman's organization Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is currently exploring the possibility of a trip to the Dominican Republic to do some renovation and construction work. During the Thanksgiving break, three Rose-Hulman students (Daniel Giranda, Eric Hollenkamp, and Abby Grommet) went with Professor John Gardner and 1996 chemical engineering alumnus Levi Barclay to Batey Cinco Casas (in the Monte Plata region) to assess what work needed to be done to expand the medical clinic there.

For those unfamiliar with the region, a batey is like a company town in the United States built around a factory. Specifically, bateys were built around sugarcane plantations. In the profitable years, immigrants were brought from neighboring Haiti as workers. As business waned and the town began to die, the workers were left to fend for themselves as the plantations were shut down and the primary source of income removed.

Current statistics suggest that several hundred thousand people currently live in these semi-abandoned



John Gardner / Rose-Hulman

Students with the Rose-Hulman chapter of Engineers Without Borders assess the needs of a clinic during their recent trip to the Dominican Republic. In the proposed project, the students will renovate the facility to accommodate the growing medical needs of the surrounding community.

bateys. The non-profit Batey Relief Organization has set up a clinic in Cinco Casas where medical care is provided to anyone who needs it, regardless of their ability to pay.

The reason for the Engineers Without Borders trip seems simple: the clinic has seen a three hundred increase in need over the past two months and is in need of more space to better serve their community. EWB was asked to help, and has al-

ready begun to do so: the Thanksgiving group tested water, assessed the structural stability of the existing buildings, and worked with the community to ensure that the proposed project would meet as many pressing needs as possible.

Rose-Hulman Engineers Without Borders hopes to complete the project in three years, a task that includes at least one more assessment trip as well as the actual construction period. Engineers

Without Borders's president, Adam Kirchner (civil engineering major, Class of 2011), estimates that "construction will likely cost on the order of \$250,000" and notes that the group's budget "relies heavily on donations and fundraising efforts." The club encourages people who may be interested in the project and others like it to contact the Rose-Hulman chapter of EWB and consider becoming a member.

## The unparalleled UnConference

Eric Reed

Guest Writer

This past Saturday, Upsilon Pi Epsilon, an honors fraternity for computer science and software engineering majors, hosted its first CSSE UnConference. CSSE current students and alumni gathered for a day of alumni presentations, socializing, and free pizza. The conference lasted all day and contained nine presentations in total.

The first talk focused on techniques for writing programs on multi-core computers. In the past few years, processor developers have focused on creating CPUs that consist of a number of independent processors. The goal of this is to speed up comput-

ers by making them capable of doing many things at once. In order to utilize these processors properly, programmers need to rethink how they do most of their coding. The presentation traced the evolution of multi-core processors, highlighted the major differences to single-core programming, and gave some examples of the kinds of programming gymnastics necessary to write concurrent programs properly.

Next, there was a roundtable discussion with a number of alumni about how to find out if a company with which you interview is one that you would like to work at, which is an aspect commonly ignored by job searchers. One of the alumni suggested asking about the quality of the

chairs and how easily one could replace a horrible chair. While it seems frivolous, you end up sitting in the chair for huge chunks of time every day; if it is a terrible chair, then it will slowly drive you insane. Furthermore, if the company will not even allow you to improve a rather vital piece of your work environment, would you really want to work there?

In a kind of programming challenge, two of the alumni attempted to construct a basic version of Twitter in about 45 minutes. The purpose was to demonstrate the power of a system called Ruby on Rails. They built basic interface, account creation and login, sent tweets, and read the tweets of all users, but they encountered a bug while building the

structure for following other users and ran out of time.

Alumni also demonstrated a number of tools developers can use to make their lives significantly easier, including version control, which allows tracking changes to documents and allows many users to edit the same source files, resolving conflicts between documents. For software development, this is vital for any project of nontrivial size. Suggested version control systems were SVN (used by Rose) and GitHub (used by the alumni's startup). Also mentioned were the use of debuggers instead of printing messages and the use of build tools (ant, make, rake, etc.) to build independently of IDEs.

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Rose-doku

By Andrew Klusman

**Instructions:**  
Solve the puzzle by filling in the blanks but be careful to not repeat the symbols (W, E, I, H, N, A, C, T, M) vertically, horizontally or within the bold 3x3 sub-grid squares.

							M	
	I		C			A		E
			E		H		C	I
	T	C			E	I	N	
	A						E	
	N	E	H			C	W	
T	H		N		C			
N		I			W		H	
	C							

Find the answers to all Rose Thorn puzzles at:

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn>

Movie Quote of the Week

By Andrew Klusman

**Instructions:**  
Solve the puzzle by deciphering the following quote and figure out from which song the quote is. Each letter represents a different letter in the alphabet.

**Hint (Solution = Crypto):**  
A = Y B = N C = H

TY HBGLG TYSGTWPRGQQG, PA PR IPAB  
-----,  
SGGKGRA KLPSG YDS VLG YAGRA KQGYRFLG  
-----  
ABYA IG IGQHW TG UWF AWDPVBA. YDS  
-----,  
DWI IG PDMPAG UWF AW LGQYJ, QGA FR  
-----,  
KFQQ FKY HBYPL YR ABG SPDPDV LWWT  
-----  
KLWFSQU KLGRGDAR UWFL SPDDGL!  
-----!

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The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter.

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## UnConference, from page 1

The following presentation was on things Rose does not teach you and how to keep up with developments in the software world. Many of the suggestions focused on interactions with coworkers (finding a mentor, code reviews, and pair programming) or on knowing your tools. Books, blogs and conferences were all mentioned as great ways to further your knowledge. Also, the best advice ever given about the development of code: "Always code as if the person who will maintain your code is a maniac serial killer who knows where you live."

As an example of how poorly-written code can incrementally be improved until it becomes highly useful, the alum started with the most basic form of a web app to-do list. He then demonstrated how he could transform it into something as elegant as Twitter's homepage by simply using a handful of additional pieces (jQuery, CSS, and AJAX among others). In total, it took him about 25 minutes.

The following talk focused on the conventions of Dependency Injection (DI) and Inversion of Control (IoC). DI/IoC is about how to abstract what a program does from how it does it.

The main point was that while it may seem more tedious to set up your code along DI/IoC conventions, it makes life much better in the long run for testing, expanding, and maintaining large-scale projects.

The penultimate talk focused on low-level programming; specifically, the need to understand the full capability of your tools at that level. Some of the most powerful parts of the tools that developers use can only be understood by studying them in great depth—some of the examples presented did not have any real documentation beyond the description of the command and arguments as opposed to other tools, which have a small library's worth of explanation online, which can greatly improve efficiency.

The conference concluded with a panel about how to start a business. The alumni told the story of how they left a company to start their own consulting business and the lessons they learned in the process. The questions from students ranged from how to determine how much to charge clients to how to balance working for yourself with free time and everything in between, a topic especially fitting for Rose students.

Alex Mullans

Sports Editor

"It's complicated." Many at Rose might apply that particular statement to relationships, but anyone who attended Wednesday's intellectual property seminar might well apply that statement to patents and copyrights. Rose-Hulman Ventures invited intellectual property law firm Bose, McKinney, and Evans, LLP to speak on the topic of patents and copyrights pertaining to

## Property of the mind

software. The speakers covered the nuances of current patent law, including pending cases that will affect future patent applications.

In the copyright portion of the talk, the topic of open source software interested many people in the room. Freshman Richard Thai thought "the touch on open source was interesting. I didn't realize the importance of looking into the license." Thai wasn't the only one interested; a good 30 minutes of the two-hour pre-

sentation were spent fielding difficult questions from other Rose students and faculty. Shawn Bohner, Professor and Director of Software Engineering, noted that the presentation did a "fantastic job" of addressing situations that are "applicable to Rose students, both now and in the future." Indeed, the number of people who remained with questions after the presentation ended would seem to indicate that the topic and presentation were, in Bohner's words, "the good stuff."

## It's a swing thing

Kadye Smith

Guest Writer

Friday, December 4, the Swing Club hosted the first Winter Gala at Rose-Hulman's dining center. The Winter Gala was a time for people from Rose's and other college's swing clubs to come together, learn new moves from one another, and dance socially. Schools in attendance included Anderson College, the University of Indianapolis, DePauw, Ball State, and IUPUI. It began at eight in the evening with basic partner dancing lessons, where attendees learned the basic step, how to do turns, and the cuddle. After this lesson, the social dancing began, with skill levels ranging from beginner to expert.

To participants, the versatility and laid-back attitude of swing dancing was one of the attractions of the evening. Swing can be done to practically any song with good rhythm, and the dancers took advantage of this, playing not only period music, but more popular fare as well. Even though many of the dancers came to the event with no prior knowledge of swing, by the end of the night, newcomers

to swing had a good feel for basic partner dancing and could show off their new moves with skill and precision.

Another type of swing dance taught during the course of the evening was the Charleston, a dance where everyone lines up in two rows that face each other and perform some very fast steps. During the dance, someone is designated the caller and, at random times, signals for the group to do a variation of the steps, much like a swing version of a square dance. Many of the participants used the impromptu dancing as an opportunity to incorporate more modern dance moves into the Charleston.

Even the attendees from schools other than Rose-Hulman enjoyed the event. One such dancer was Donetta, a sophomore from the University of Indianapolis. She said she heard about the Winter Gala from Brandon Abad, a co-founder of swing club and its vice president. She also said the thing that drew her in the most to swing dancing was the spinning.

President of Rose-Hulman Swing Club Danny Beyrer also

had a few things to say about how he got into swing dancing and his take on the Gala. He noted that his interest in dance started with salsa at a leadership conference, then turned to ballroom dancing, and finally to swing dancing. Danny also said that he was surprised by the number of people who came to the event and how long everyone had stayed. He thought most of the dancers would tire out before the end of the night since they were not used to the amount of energy it requires to swing dance. His favorite part of the Gala, though, was "That so many people from Anderson came."

The Winter Gala was a successful event, with many attendees and many laughs. According to Kyle Bristol the event was "awesome... I gave up video games for this and don't regret it one bit." The leadership of Swing Club noted that there are more galas in the future for Rose students and other colleges to attend. They encourage anyone interested in swing dancing should go to the weekly meetings held on Tuesday from 8:30-10:00 p.m. in the SRC multipurpose room.



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## Swing, swing, swing



Luke Woolley/ Rose-Hulman

Rose-Hulman students participate in Swing Dancing Club's Winter Gala. Participants began the evening with some basic lessons in the swing style, and then participated in both partner and line dancing for the remainder of the evening. Students from Anderson, IUPUI, and the University of Indianapolis also attended.



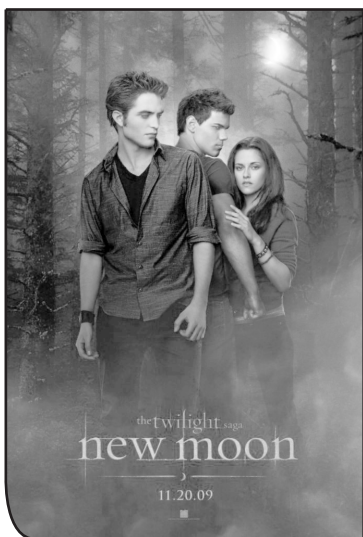
## For those who dream of Edward or Jacob: “The Twilight Saga: New Moon”

**Eli Baca**

*Staff Writer*

Although Sandra Bullock’s football flick, “The Blind Side,” nabbed the #1 spot this week-end at the box office, “The Twilight Saga: New Moon” has grossed a sparkling \$255.4 million in just over two weeks. For all you fans of the Harry Potter book series, “New Moon” is ahead of the last Thanksgiving Harry Potter movie, “Goblet of Fire,” for this two-week period. How you like *them* apples?! And with all the shirtless man-candy frolicking around, it’s time for the wizards to put down their wands and grow some fangs, or maybe fur, depending on which team you’re on. I myself am Team Edward. Accept it, Jacob fans: Bella’s just not interested in him.

All the familiar faces return for the second dose of this cross-species love triangle, and boy, does their acting improve! Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, and Taylor Lautner star in New Moon, but it’s the newer characters that really got to have fun. Dakota Fanning is the cute but *crazy* character Jane, and Underworld fans got to see Michael Sheen as Aro the (gasp!) vampire. The actors do a much better job when compared to the first “Twilight” movie, and Kristen Stewart actually made me believe she was Bella a couple of times. Finally, some acting! Taylor Lautner also does a great job with his character, really bringing Jacob to life on



<http://www.drafthouse.com>

*Recent reports have stated Stephenie Meyer has died. These reports are false. Phew.*

screen.

Also new to the crew is director Chris Weitz (“The Golden Compass,” “About a Boy”), who took this dying franchise and brought it to greatness. The movie flows very well, and while Melissa Rosenberg’s writing is on par with Stephenie Meyer’s original work, the film is able to convey Bella’s complete depression without needing to provide Prozac to audience members. The CGI in “New Moon” is better than that of its predecessor, but sometimes those wolves were very not real, and just odd-looking. One of the better aspects of the adaptation is the CGI to create the illusion of Edward. Bella’s many “I saw Edward” moments were both beautiful and

creepy at the same time, which really brought home Bella’s love for him. The book isn’t able to really create the fake Edward, but the screen does it flawlessly, especially when Jacob pulls Bella out of the water—truly a great heartache moment.

“New Moon” is much, *much* better than the first of the saga, but still has its faults that make it a “close, but no cigar” sort of movie. The writing and subtle points take the movie out of the book, and make it something that most tween girls can enjoy. It’s got more of a modern vibe, and the movie actually keeps the audience interested—even though most of us know exactly what’s coming. For all of the hype surrounding “New Moon,” I was hoping that the movie would be just downright better than “Twilight,” and I was pleasantly surprised to see a decent movie—it had action, it had adventure, it had some crazy graphics, and a love story that captured the hearts of many girls around the nation. Thank you, Summit Entertainment, for going with a new director, and thank you, Chris Weitz, for making a good movie. It wasn’t all sparkles and firecrackers, but “New Moon” is a flick that fans will watch over and over again, and never have to remember the complete travesty that was “Twilight.”

Reviewer rating: 4.5 elephant



### Concert Update

Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
Conseco Fieldhouse, 12/23

Lady Gaga  
Elliot Hall of Music, 1/14

## Grooveshark vs. Pandora

**Hobey Tam**

*Staff Writer*

Music makes life so much easier to live. It gives a beat to it. It gives order to the chaos we see every day. When I start up my Pandora, I hope for a new and unique song when I click through my stations. I wish for more variety than the same bank of twenty songs. I try to find new songs by trying new stations to get back into the beat of life. But my efforts are in vain and my wishes fall upon deaf ears.

Pandora has held the music craving at bay, but it’s time to truly indulge something new. Something that will fulfill all your wishes – be everything that Pandora is and much more. Many have already discovered it, but for those of you who haven’t, I border on weeping for you and thus write this article. Introducing: Grooveshark.

For those of you not familiar with Grooveshark, it is an on-line library of music. Users can search for songs, build playlists, and then share them. I know what the bad apples are thinking as they read this, but Grooveshark is not a download-

ing site. It is simply a library where you are free to use the endless archives of songs with one stipulation — you must stay in the library. Plain and simple — Grooveshark is a Pandora that lets you listen to the songs you want to hear when you want to hear them.

Pick three songs. Let’s say Lil’ Wayne’s new mixtape hit “Told Y’all” (Grooveshark has mixtapes, unlike Pandora), “Gibberish” by Ryan Leslie, and some “Forever” by Drake. Or maybe you’re into the metal scene, in which case you would choose to indulge in some All That Remains, Shadows Fall, and Killswitch Engage. Simply hit “radio” and the search engine will queue up an ongoing playlist. The bank is bigger and more flexible than Pandora’s. Skip songs to your heart’s content. Replay favorites over and over again if you so choose. Pick all your top favorites and put them all into a playlist. Check out what other people are listening to. Listen to new material.

No monthly 40 hour limit. No commercial interruption. No bull to deal with. Check it out, and indulge yourself in this mess we call life.

PANDORA™  
created by the Music Genome Project™

<http://www.pandora.com>

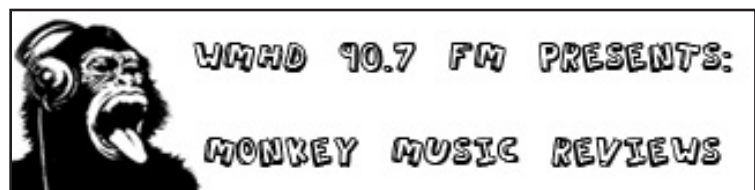


GROOVESHARK™

<http://www.grooveshark.com>

*In Grooveshark’s legal statement, the site has “...an artists/label program to ensure that any owner of content will be compensated fairly for each time their content is played via Grooveshark,” much like Pandora.*

**Like playing video games, watching movies, or listening to music? Review it for the Thorn!**  
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## They Might Be Giants “Here Comes Science”

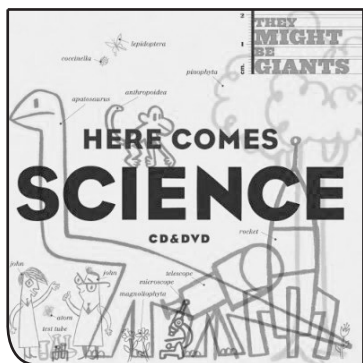
**Bridgette Haflich**

*Monkey Writer*

First of all, this is a children’s album by an alternative band. They Might Be Giants (TMBG) alternates periodically between alternative rock, geek/college rock, and children’s music, so be prepared for a very strange rollercoaster ride.

“Here Comes Science” is all about science (of course). Topics include the periodic table, photosynthesis, physics, cells, the color spectrum, dinosaurs, and the scientific method in general. As a scientist myself, I can say that the topics covered are pretty awesome and just what kids should be learning about. The songs are all fun and neat with a good rhythm and a catchy beat – exactly what kids want, and if the lyrics weren’t educational, they would probably end up topping charts anyway because of their awkward pop cuteness. It really wasn’t intended to be solely for children – it isn’t completely banal and silly like typical children’s music, and even includes a few sly jokes that maybe only adults would understand.

As a college kid with a lot of taste for music, “Here Comes Science” is half “What the heck



<http://www.amazon.com>

this is stupid” and half “This is the most awesome thing *ever*.” I’ve heard other albums by TMBG, and it’s pretty strange if you, like me, have only heard the sections of their discography intended for older audiences. All in all, it’s one of those albums where Your Mileage May Vary.

The album has ice beats and vocals, and I’m loving the science, but I’m an engineering student and I know this already. If it had existed when I was a kid, it would have been epic, and I would cheerfully sing the songs all the way around campus. Now? Not as great, but still charming.

Reviewer rating: 3.5 elephant



### NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK

#### Music:

Chris Brown  
*Graffiti*

Jimmy Buffet  
*Buffet Hotel*

Redman  
*Reggie Noble 9 1/2*

Lowell Brams  
*Music For Insomnia*

The Game  
*The R.E.D. Hotel*

30 Seconds to Mars  
*This Is War*

#### Movies:

Invictus

The Lovely Bones

Rocket Singh:  
Salesman of the Year

The Viscious Kind

#### DVD:

Public Enemies

Julie & Julia

Public Enemies

#### Games:

Saboteur  
(Xbox 360, PS3)

The Legend of Zelda:  
Spirit Tracks  
(DS)

Silent Hill:  
Shattered Memories  
(Wii)

DiRT 2  
(PC, Xbox 360, PS3)

Rec Room Games  
(Wii)

Rayman  
(DSiWare)



# A skewed perspective

**Melissa Schwenk**  
*Living Editor*

From all the crash tests on car commercials I'd seen, I expected the world to slow down during my wreck, for everything to go quiet. In the physics car crash problems, no one gets hurt and only sometimes is there energy lost to sound. On my way to my last final before Thanksgiving break, that fateful 8 am Meatballs final, I was in a car accident that was none of these things. My car was spun around before I could open my eyes; the sound of the Nissan Versa hitting my poor Chevrolet Cavalier haunted me every time I went to make a left hand turn over break; the bruise on my leg and the cuts on my face were constant reminders that things we assumed in freshman physics class do not necessarily hold true in the real world.

The first things that went through my mind as the car without its lights on bore down

on my car were not "Oh my God, please don't let me die!" or "Please don't break my legs!" As I closed my eyes and prepared for the impact, I immediately panicked about missing my Meatballs final. In fact, the third person I called, after 911 and my dad, was a kid in my Meatballs class. As I hysterically tried to tell him that I would be late to the final because I was in a car accident that totaled my car, he asked if I was ok. I hadn't thought about my personal well-being after the wreck. My mind had completely skipped that part of the after-wreck checklist.

When did a final become more important to me than my health? When did I stop caring if there was glass all around me and my face was bleeding because I was going to be late to said final? I'm normally a pretty balanced person. I go to bed around midnight every school night, even if my homework isn't done (it usually is). At that moment, when he asked if I was ok and I went over my after-



scrapetu.com

*This is not Melissa's car, but this is almost what it looked like on that fateful day. What a great physics problem this would have been. Too bad she hates physics now.*

wreck checklist again, I realized I had become like those people who pull all-nighters and consumed unspeakable amounts of caffeine because their homework grade is more important than their health. I had always wondered how people got that invested, and there I was, more worried about my final than about what felt like fiberglass on my face.

What would I have done if I

got a call right before my final that someone I cared about had been in a nonfatal accident? Would I have reacted the same, more worried about my final than a person? Looking back on that day, it's hard to say that I would have skipped the final to make sure they were ok.

When do we cross that line? It seems like many people at Rose-Hulman lose that balance between school and health, be it

social, physical, or mental. With a new quarter starting, it's a good idea for students to slow down and find the right balance. Instead of spending time in front of the TV or computer, go out with your friends. These human connections are what will keep you balanced and keep you from losing track of what's really important. At the end of the day, my car and my final are neither nearly as important as my health.

## Science cake

**Carly Baehr**  
*Copy Editor*

This is the perfect chocolate cake recipe for a college student: it is easy, requires minimal equipment, and contains no perishable ingredients. The original recipe, which I inherited from my dad, is called mud pie cake, but it was rechristened "science cake" here at Rose because it depends on an acid/base reaction between vinegar and baking soda to make the bubbles. (For people who don't do chemistry,  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} + \text{NaHCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Na}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^- + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2(\text{g})$ .)

**Ingredients:**  
1½ cup flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 tsp baking soda  
3 Tbsp cocoa  
5 Tbsp vegetable oil  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 tablespoon vinegar  
1 cup water  
Powdered sugar

**Optional Ingredients:**  
1 Tbsp cinnamon  
Frosting  
Orange extract

**Preparation:**  
• Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.  
• In a 9x9 pan, sift together the flour, sugar, baking soda, cocoa, and cinnamon if desired (if you don't have a sifter or sieve, just mix them together and then squish out any lumps using a fork).  
• Pour the vegetable oil and vanilla over the dry ingredients.  
• Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to one cup of water.  
• Pour the water over everything else and mix with a fork until reasonably smooth. Try to mix it thoroughly, but also quickly: the faster you get it in the oven, the fluffier it will be! Bake for 30 minutes.  
• Allow the cake to cool (if you can manage to wait), then either dust it with powdered sugar or frost, according to your preference and whether you have frosting. I personally like to add a tablespoon or so of orange extract to my frosting.  
Variation: use 1 cup of spiced black chai tea in place of the water for a bit of extra spice flavor.



Tim Ekl / Rose Thorn

*Carly Baehr demonstrates the appropriate eye wear for the kitchen.*

## All the small things

**Mitchell Ishmael**  
*Staff Writer*

It is funny how simple things are often the most important things. So many times I've neglected doing the little things for my parents, siblings, and friends. Saying "Thank you" when my mom cooks dinner, picking up my stuff in the room, doing all those small things for my girlfriend, playing with my brother and sister when I was a little tired—all so many little things that I chose not to do because I... Well, I don't know why. There aren't any good reasons.

It might be because I get into habits really easily, because I get into a rhythm and let things continue that way just because of apathy. I know that I'm doing something wrong, but because it is small, because "it doesn't really matter," I don't change it. I feel that I can make the little mistakes as long as I don't make the large ones.

But the small things add up, and soon lifetimes have been spent neglecting the small things, and suddenly all the accomplishments that you have made don't mean much: because you didn't tell your mom thanks for a wonderful, warm dinner during the eighteen years she cooked them for you,

because you didn't offer to mow the grass, because you didn't throw the football, because you were too stubborn to say "I'm sorry."

And they aren't always fun; most of the time they are the last things that you want to do. They occupy that small space of time that you feel should be kept to yourself, so you brush them aside.

And they aren't always obvious; many times, I've found myself blind to the little things that I could do. I'll be in a hurry, value my time more than others' time, and think that I'll do it later, or someone else can do it this time, because I've got it on the next go around.

The funny thing is, I know that I'm lying to myself. I know that there won't be a next time, but I've found that it is very easy to delude yourself when you're delusional.

So what is this article? A call to action? Not in the slightest. If nothing else, I'm writing this for me. I'm looking to make the small things add up in my favor, because I am a firm believer that when you take care of the small things in life, everything else will take care of itself. The sun will brighten, and chores will become feel-goods.

Feel-goods because I can take comfort in the fact that I'm taking care of the small, simple things.

*I get into a rhythm and let things continue that way just because of apathy.*





Christine Price

Opinions Editor

Winter has finally arrived in Terre Haute. What isn't here in Terre Haute? My hats. But what is in Terre Haute? My scarves! This presents me with an interesting quandary: do I warm up my head by putting a scarf on it, and risk the mockery of my peers? Or do I give my ears to frostbite in exchange for my dignity? The answer, of course, is obvious. I didn't become a software engineer because I have an overdeveloped sense of dignity. But like all humans, I can't stop myself from worrying what people think. I'm rather fond of having friends. I'm rather fond of having ears. What is a girl to do?

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. And if you don't feel like beating them or joining them... attempt to get them to join you.

Students of Rose! You are already geeks. If you cared unduly what people thought you wouldn't be here anyway. Today I ask you, my peers, to join me in wearing the babushka. If you, like me, have

## The Price is Right

some Russian ancestry, honor it by donning the babushka. If you want to feel a little more international, sport a babushka. If you feel like it's time to grow up, and need a +12 age modifier, wear a babushka. They are quite practical. Unlike your average hat, it covers everything but your face. It messes up your hair less than a ski mask, and also doubles as a scarf once you get inside. True, you occasionally get mistaken for a Muslim, but if you cultivate a reputation for being an avid atheist, you get to confuse people, which is quite lovely.

Babushkas are pretty easy to make. All it takes is some form of fabric, and a head. You can use knit scarves, but I don't recommend it; they can be a bit too static-y. But sometimes you just have to work with what you've

got. Remember: The thicker the fabric, the thicker the babushka. If you fold it in half length-wise, you can maintain the length, and make it more manageable. I'd put in more directions on how to make a babushka, but it's fun to experiment with the best way to create one, and I think that creating babushka-creation-instruction would make a good tech com project. It's just one of those things that's difficult to write out clearly.

So come on Rose. Let's create a new fashion statement. Let's tell the world, "We are engineers! We are practical! Why restrict our scarves to our necks, when they can add warmth to our whole heads?"

And really, there are few words that are more fun to say than "babushka."



Scott Gallmeier / Rose Thorn

*Dr. House, fashionably sporting a BABUSHKA! Not only sporting, but being a good sport.*

## Letter to the editor

**"We, the men's social Fraternities of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, realizing the need to strengthen the Fraternity system, to promote leadership, education, service, and to uphold the unbiased regulation of interfraternity affairs, do hereby establish and subscribe to this Constitution."**

This preamble can be found in the Rose-Hulman Interfraternity Council (IFC) constitution. The IFC, in conjunction with school policy and fraternity bylaws and regulations, explicitly dictates rules and procedures a fraternity is to follow and enforce. Some policies at Rose differ from those other schools. The two most well-known differences are probably the dry rush and the six-week rush period, while other schools may have no such policy—allowing a rush week with all-out drinking. Our policies help Rose's Greek system thrive, but they do not stop possible rule violations. In fact, during the last rush, one fraternity on campus broke an additional policy written in both Rose-Hulman's student handbook and that fraternity's national regulations.

Let me tell you a story about a friend of

mine. Let's call him Jude (not his real name). At the start of rush, Jude was marginally interested in a certain fraternity (which will remain unnamed). However, as time went by during the rush period, he began fitting in. Jude had common interests with most of the guys in the house, and spent his spare time playing ping pong with them, and going to other rush events. It was looking as if he was going to get a bid. Until, that is, he came out as gay to one of the members of the fraternity. Jude thought it was important to mention since he could be living there for the next one to three years. It would be best to tackle the subject now rather than later.

The fraternity member welcomed him, but mentioned that some, if not most, of the house members might not feel the same. When it came down to the Monday before Bid Tuesday, that same member conversed with Jude (a violation itself) and revealed that he was not receiving a bid—not be-

cause he was gay, but because of the complications that could arise because of his being gay. That clearly violates the school policy that states, "Rose-Hulman is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination, equal employment, and equal educational

opportunity with respect to recruitment, hiring, training, promotion, and treatment of persons in all organizations, services, and programs. Discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, citizenship status, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation is prohibited." It is even worse that the national regulations of this fraternity were violated as well: "...discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, condition of disability, or religious affiliation is inconsistent with the guiding principles of <unnamed fraternity>."

Some might argue that the fraternity member made a valid distinction between

## Letter to the editor

From Dickens's "A Christmas Carol":

"Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you?"

It seems frequently that people have this Scrooge-ish attitude around this time of year. And when someone says to "Get in the Christmas spirit!" most of these people reply with an emphatic "Bah! Humbug!"

But they miss the point of what the Christmas Spirit is. These Scrooges are concerned about the money; they find Christmas purely commercial. And, frighteningly, I'm starting to realize that most people are these Scrooge-ish misers.

It bothers me that people are caught up in the commercialism of the holiday. I read earlier today that the ABC production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was edited to be short, in order to (get this) fit in more commercials. If you're unfamiliar of this holiday tale, it basically follows Charlie Brown as he struggles to find the true meaning of Christmas. It's basically a slap in the face to commercialism.

Yet in this day and age, we're cutting down some of that short film to promote more commercials. Ironic, isn't it? Worse still, you can buy a replica of Chuck's dismal Christmas tree, which you may recall he bought in order to fight the commercial attitude the world has. Yes, you read that right. You can BUY the tree that symbolized NOT buying commercial trees.

It saddens me to see the state that this "holiday" has been reduced to. Whether or not you buy into the religious aspects of the holiday or not doesn't matter; Christmas used to stand for something. Peace on Earth, good will to others, spending time with loved ones. Now it stands for Black Friday deals, and giant TVs, and the latest and greatest cell phones.

Speaking of, have you seen those Wal-Mart commercials where the mom says "What I

want... is to give my child happiness" (or some such saying), and in the background is the child getting some TV or video game or something? What a great message. The only way to make your kids happy is to buy them things.

I'm not saying gifts are a bad thing; in fact, they're a great way to show someone you care. But it's gone from "I'm going to give you a gift because you make

my life bright and I want to surprise you with something nice" to being the ONLY thing people worry about. We're giving gifts because we have to, and it's what we expect. It's not for the right reasons.

In years down the road, which would you prefer to remember? The material gifts you had, or the gifts of the time spent with those you love?

As I prepare to have my first Christmas without my grandmother, I reflect on this question. I can't recall most of the gifts I've received during the holiday seasons in my past, but I can remember the time spent with my family on those holidays. If you ask me, those were the gifts, not the wrapped boxes under the tree.

It was seeing my grandma walk around all morning shouting "Merry Christmas!" in an obnoxiously loud voice, and sitting at the kitchen table playing cards.

Scrooge's nephew sums up the true holiday spirit when he counters Scrooge's dismal attitude:

"But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round...as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."

Now there's a Christmas Spirit to get behind. And, in lieu of this Christmas Spirit, I have a Christmas list for all of you who still don't get the point:

Spend time with the family and friends you love.

Marc Pardee  
Electrical Engineer, 2012

Sexual orientation does not completely and wholly define a person.

Jude's sexual orientation and the complications that could result from his orientation. However, no distinction exists at all between the two. The complications that could arise from being gay are dependent upon two concepts: sexual orientation and the prejudice against a person with that orientation. There would be no problem and no prejudice if the person were straight. Ultimately, the statement is an attempt to dodge school policy and fraternity regulations. This violation is unacceptable and important to point out.

And yet, a more pressing issue involving sexual orientation and labels is at hand. Sexual orientation does not completely and wholly define a person. It does not control his or her life. It is not a defining factor of personality. A person's sexual orientation is not a psychological disorder, nor is it anything to fear. The time is now for us as a society to be intelligent, to look past the labels, and to see each other as human beings—ones who feel, think, and, most importantly of all, love.

William Mruzek  
Computer Science, Class of 2013



# Strong beginning fails to save women's B-ball

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology trimmed a 16-point first half deficit down to four on two occasions, but could not overcome Webster University in a 51-43 women's basketball matchup on Wednesday night at Hulbert Arena.

Rose-Hulman junior Donna Marsh (Mobile, Ala./Baker) led all players with 14 points and 15 rebounds for her 16th career double-double. The 15 rebounds marked a season high for Marsh, who finished 7-11 from the field.

Junior Nicole Klass (Evansville/North) also reached double figures for the Engineers with 12 points. Sophomore Alisa Dickerson (Elizabethtown, Ky.) added five points, 10 rebounds, six assists, four steals and three blocks.

Other key contributors included freshman Erin Davey (St. Charles, Mo./Incarnate Word) with five points; junior Rebecca Bowermaster (Wood River, Ill./Roxana) with four points and a career-high three steals; and freshman Paige Klemme (Greenfield/Central) with three points, two rebounds and two steals.

Freshman Maggie Zehner led Webster in scoring with 12 points, while Tori Fenemor added 11. Rose-Hulman held the Gorloks to just 31% from the field and forced 21 turnovers, while the Engineers shot 38% from the field.

Webster jumped out to a 22-6 lead midway through the first half, before a field goal by Marsh and four straight points from Klass brought Rose-Hulman within 23-14 late in the opening half. A layup by Marsh brought

the Engineers to within seven points at the break.

In the second half, Rose-Hulman trimmed the margin to four points at 35-31 on a score by Marsh at the 8:08 mark, and two free throws by Dickerson made the margin 37-33 with 7:01 remaining.

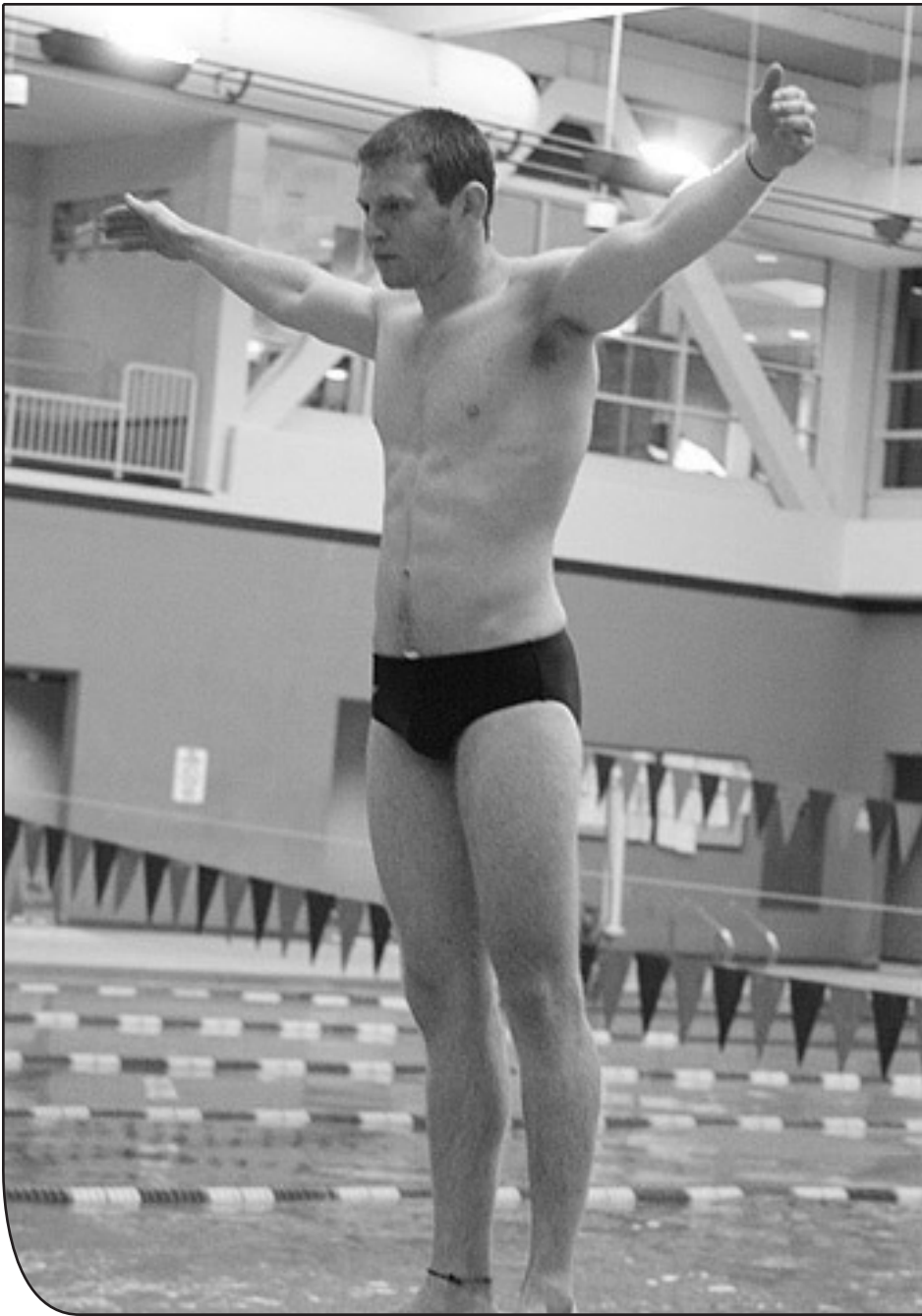
Webster pushed the lead back to nine points twice, but a three-pointer by Klass brought Rose-Hulman within 47-41 with 3:04 remaining. The Gorloks held the Engineers to just one field goal in the last three minutes to secure the victory.

Webster improved to 5-2 on the season with the victory. Rose-Hulman returns to action with a home matchup against defending Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference champion Transylvania University on Saturday.



Paige Klemme, a biomedical engineering freshman makes a move towards the hoop.

# Michael Gerdov claims top honors at diving invitational



Rose-Hulman News

Michael Gerdov – Rose-Hulman Invitational champion in the three-meter competition.

# Baseball team offers hand to EFRC renovations

Rose-Hulman News

Forty members of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology baseball team donated their efforts on a chilly December Saturday morning to help the Exotic Feline Rescue Center (EFRC) continue progress on its facility.

The Fightin' Engineer baseball team spent the day building two new enclosures that will house several of the 10 tigers that were recently rescued by the Center.

Last winter, Rose-Hulman constructed cages that currently house two tigers with materials that were donated by the Tony Stewart Foundation, started by the two-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion. The team was able to see the new environment that was created due to their efforts.

The EFRC was founded in 1991 by Joe Taft in Center Point, with a mission of pro-

viding "permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused, abandoned or for some reason have nowhere to live out their lives, while educating the public about these beautiful cats."

The EFRC currently contains more than 200 large cats from nearly half the nation. Two years ago, Rose-Hulman helped the center with work on its new food processing center is to handle more than 3,000 pounds of meat per day. More than 20,000 visitors pass through the EFRC every year.

Rose-Hulman's baseball team battled temperatures in the mid-30s to complete work that included construction of new fences and poles to help provide homes for these felines. In return for their efforts, the Engineers experienced an up-close tour of the facilities, including viewing many of the exotic felines in their natural environment.

# Strong defensive effort leads Wabash past Rose-Hulman

Rose-Hulman News

Wabash College held Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to 27% shooting from the field with a strong defensive effort to top the Fightin' Engineers 64-46 on Tuesday.

Wes Smith led the victorious Little Giants with 18 points and six rebounds. Aaron Brock added a double-double of 14 points and 12 rebounds for Wabash.

Freshman Austin Weatherford (Cicero/Hamilton Heights) led the Engineers offense with a career-high 10 points. Freshman Brenton Balsbaugh (Greenville, Ohio/Arcanum) pitched in with career-high totals of eight points and nine rebounds for Rose-Hulman.

Freshman Jon Gerken (Defiance, Ohio/Tinora) contributed eight points and five rebounds to the effort, while freshmen Nate Gissentanner (Conyers, Ga./Rock-

dale County) had eight points, four rebounds and four assists for Rose-Hulman.

Wabash jumped out to a 40-23 halftime lead due to a strong defensive effort and a balanced scoring attack. The Little Giants led 22-9 midway through the first half, before three-pointers by Gissentanner and Weatherford brought Rose-Hulman to within 24-15.

Wabash answered with a consistent run to gain the 17-point lead and maintained a steady advantage throughout much of the second half. Rose-Hulman closed to within 15 points on one occasion, on three straight points from Weatherford near the five-minute mark.

Rose-Hulman dropped to 3-5 on the season, while Wabash improved to 3-4. The Fightin' Engineers host Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference foe Transylvania University on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Hulbert Arena.

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology junior diver Michael Gerdov (Lincolnshire, Ill./Adlai Stevenson) claimed the individual title at the Engineer Diving Invitational to lead the team performance on Saturday.

Gerdov recorded 393.50 points on 11 dives to top a field of 13 divers from six institutions, including perennial powers Wabash, Wittenberg, Wisconsin-Whitewater and DePauw.

The effort marks the second consecutive year that Gerdov has won a title at the Rose-Hulman Invitational. He earned the one-meter title last season.

Senior Mark Parzych (Pearland, Texas/Central) added a second-place finish in one-meter diving to narrowly outdistance Gerdov, who placed third.

Parzych recorded 377.30 points on 11 dives to place behind only Matthew Erenpreiss of Wittenberg with a total of 386.65. Gerdov recorded 371.75 points.

Other competitors for Rose-Hulman included freshman Nicole Richardson (Janesville, Wis.), who placed eighth in one-meter diving with 210.45 points; and sophomore Julian Ametsitsi (Marysville, Wash./Marysville-Pilchuck), who placed 14th in one-meter diving with 209.25 points.

# Engineer Scoreboard

Men's Basketball 3-5 (0-2 HCAC)		Women's Basketball 0-7 (0-2 HCAC)	
December 5		December 5	
Rose-Hulman	61	Rose-Hulman	45
at Defiance College	82	at Defiance College	69
December 8		December 9	
Rose-Hulman	46	Webster College	51
at Wabash College	64	at Rose-Hulman	43

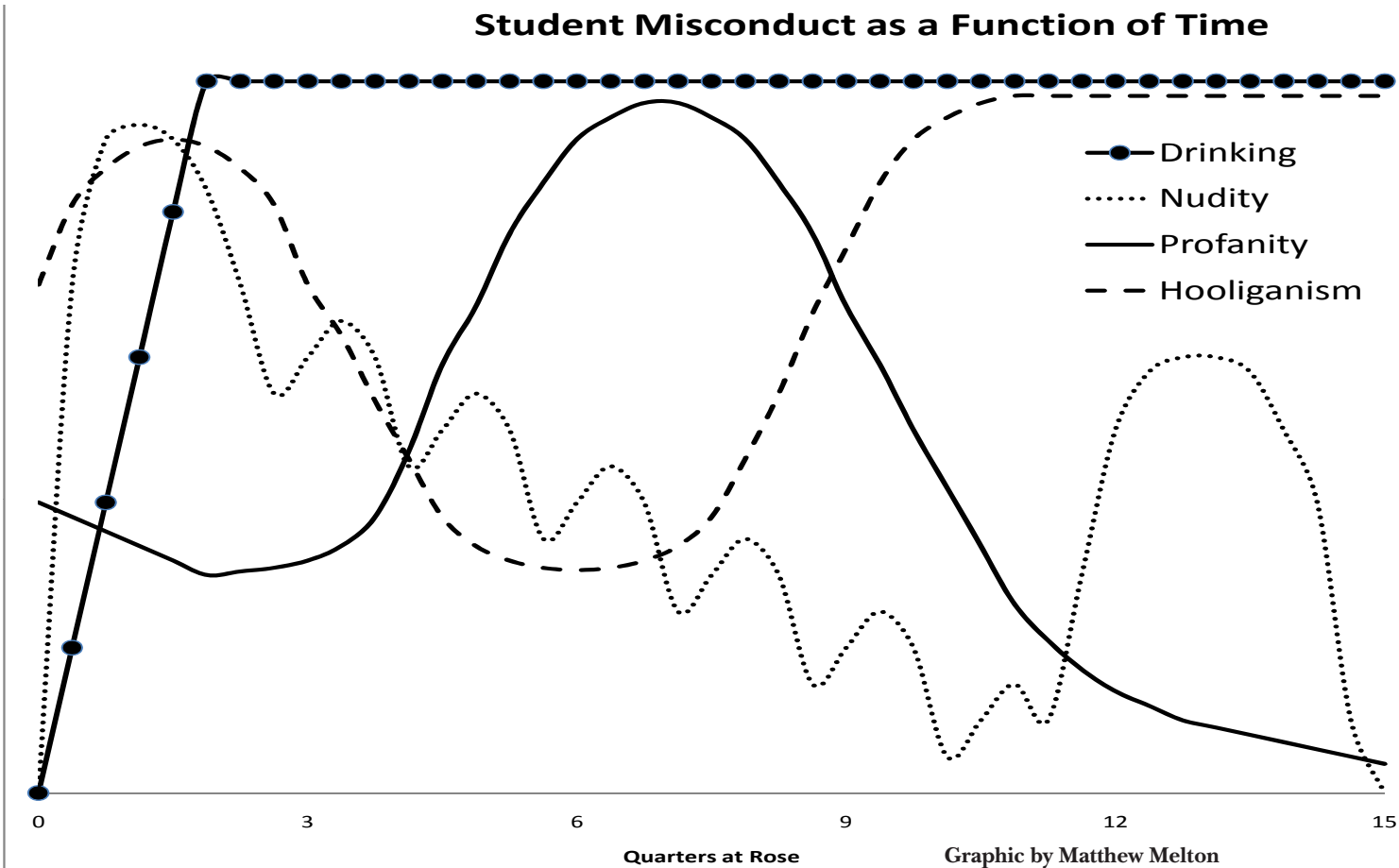
## Swimming and Diving

December 4-5		
DePauw University Invitational		Men 6th
Greencastle, Ind.		Women 7th





Think you can count all the vertical lines used on this page?



Wacky prof quotes

“An oblique bore vacuum cock... stopcock.”  
— Dr. Erwin, who threw a wrench into the imaginations of his students.

“Protonation is not forever.”  
— Dr. Brandt. Thus, you must remember to protonate your engagement ring on a regular basis.

“It doesn’t matter what solution I shove my electrodes into, they’re always going to be the same length and area.”  
— Dr. Mueller, avid surfer.

“If this is the fifteenth POS system your team has done, well... you need a new team.”  
— Dr. Clifton. You must assemble your new team from the reusable parts of your old team.

“What, is friction hiding in the closet or something?”  
— Dr. Moloney, starring in the more-epic-than-your-epic-epic “The Hunt for Red Friction.”

“If you are interested in prostitution, I know a couple of sources to get you set up.”  
— Dr. Martland, with PhD in pimpology.

“Let’s say I’m waiting on a street corner... waiting to cross the street.”  
— Dr. McClellan, in some relation with Dr. Martland.

“Jimmy, you’ll have to be in a threesome with somebody.”  
— Dr. Taylor, whom Jimmy nominated to be the best professor ever.

Rose professors are known for saying wacky things, so write them down and send them in to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

Are you sick and tired of our old jokes?  
Just not laughing anymore?  
Are you funny, or just funny looking?  
If you answered yes to even one of these, then write for the **Flipside!**  
[flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

Sex 2 safe?

Christine Price

Not schizophrenic, we swear

Last week, Phrstine Crice wrote a news article about Unity club’s AIDS awareness activities, and how it encouraged students to practice safe sex. What nonsense! If anything, Hose-Rulman should be encouraging students to engage in unsafe sex, to counteract the mundane office lives that most students will live. While one does indeed get a quiet satisfaction from re-writing a piece of code to be elegant, or in designing an especially safe bridge, it’s nothing compared to the exhilaration that one feels after performing successful coitus in shark-infested waters, during the woman’s menses, or the extreme adrenaline rush that one can feel from combining tornado-chasing and x-rated driving activities. Hearts might occasionally flutter when learning of a new, beautiful equation; but is it anything compared to how much a heart races during skydiving-sex? Unity shouldn’t encourage students to “practice safe sex.” It should encourage students to perfect unsafe sex.



[www.fuzzythis.com](http://www.fuzzythis.com)

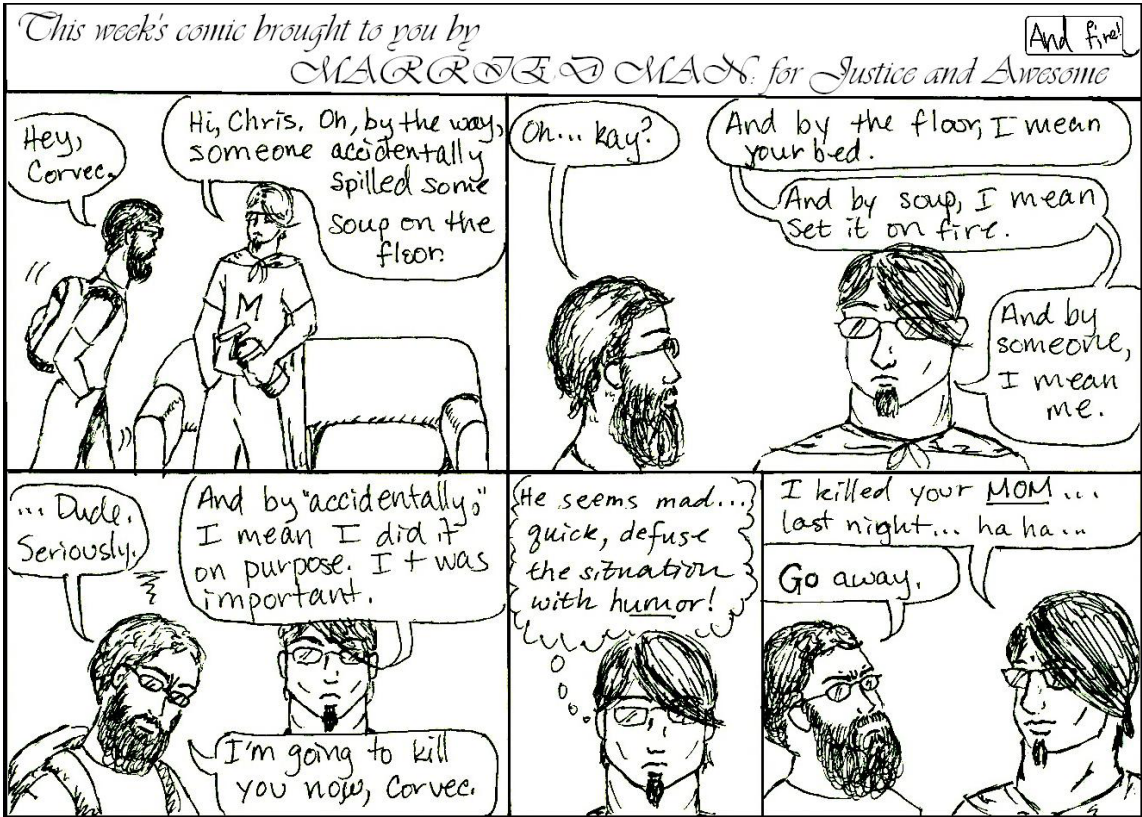
Skip the fuzzy handcuffs, go straight to the barbed wire.

Top “10” Ten Christmas projects for engineers

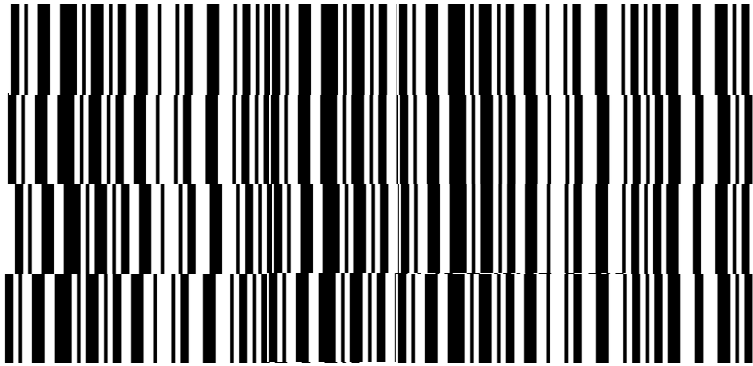
Matt Melton

A bad influence on your children

10. Build a Christmas light display powerful enough to guide air traffic.
9. Christmas lights that put themselves up, then away afterwards.
8. Hack into a major city’s traffic control system and spell “Merry Christmas” in traffic jams.
7. Christmas lights that change color for different holidays so you never have to take them down.
6. Fully automatic snowball maker and thrower. Combine this with a snow blower and every kid will have one by 2011.
5. Vaporize enough water on December 24th to guarantee a White Christmas...and New Years...and Valentine’s Day...
4. Mathematically proving the implausibility (or plausibility) of Santa Claus to your younger relatives.
3. Program auto-dropping mistletoe that drops at the most rewarding- or awkward-moments.
2. Build a Hose-Rulman quality sled. Perfect aerodynamics, rocket propulsion, and drink holders all required. Bonus points for power steering.
1. Automatic Christmas tree water-er. And no, I don’t mean a dog.



Carly Baehr - I, uh, accidentally smashed a coffee mug...



How about now?

Here at the Flipside, we’re all about outside interference. Story ideas, constructive criticism, legal concerns, destructive criticism, free food...Whatever it is, please, by all means, e-mail it to us here at [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu) Thank you!